

Agropyron cristatum - (Pascopyrum smithii, Stipa comata) Semi-natural Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME Crested Wheatgrass - (Western Wheatgrass, Needle-and-Thread Grass) Semi-natural Herbaceous Vegetation

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION Medium-tall bunch temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.d)
ALLIANCE AGROPYRON CRISTATUM SEMI-NATURAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM

GLOBAL RANGE

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

This community is probably best represented on the upland grassland areas adjacent to the eastern boundary of the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Globally

This type occurs most commonly in the northern Great Plains of the United States and Canada.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

This introduced grassland can occur in a wide variety of habitats in the Park. It is most commonly found adjacent to Park boundaries where the *Agropyron cristatum* was planted on private land to enhance forage production.

Globally

This type can occur in a wide variety of human-disturbed habitats, including highway rights-of-way, jeep trails, etc. It is also widely planted to revegetate pastures and rangelands.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Graminoid	<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Agropyron cristatum

Globally

Agropyron cristatum, *Pascopyrum smithii*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

This grassland is characterized by a almost pure stand of *Agropyron cristatum* less than 0.5 m in height. The litter layer is usually very dense. There are generally only a few native species associated with this type, mostly *Pascopyrum smithii*. Other exotic graminoids such as *Poa pratensis* and *Bromus inermis* can sometimes found in close association.

Globally

The vegetation is dominated by medium-tall (0.5 - 1 m) graminoids. The dominant grass is *Agropyron cristatum*, a naturalized species from Europe. Other weedy species may occur as well, but native species are generally less than 10% cover. Native species may include mixed-grass prairie grasses, such as *Pascopyrum smithii* and *Stipa comata*, as well as others.

CONSERVATION RANK GW. This is a naturalized type from Europe, widely planted to revegetate roadsides and pastures.

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Theodore Roosevelt National Park

DATABASE CODE C EGL005266

COMMENTS

Hansen and Hoffman (1988, p 6, Fig. 6) show a seral stand of *Agropyron cristatum*, with signs of succession leading to the *Stipa comata* / *Carex filifolia* habitat type.

REFERENCES

Hansen, P.L. and G.R. Hoffman. 1988. The vegetation of the Grand River/Cedar River, Sioux, and Ashland Districts of the Custer National Forest: a habitat type classification. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report RM-157, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Fort Collins, CO.